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Daily Highlights

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T U E S D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

- + Secretary-General says all United Nations personnel should take pride in their accomplishments and in progress made by Organization in 1994.
- + Secretary-General welcomes signing of cease-fire agreement by Bosnian parties as first step towards real peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- + UNPROFOR issues strong protest after Croatian Serb soldiers injure two Canadian peace-keepers in unprovoked attack.
- + Botswana, Germany, Honduras, Indonesia and Italy begin two-year terms of office as non-permanent members of Security Council.
- + DPI publishes 1993 United Nations Yearbook.

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All those who serve the United Nations are entitled to take pride in their accomplishments and in the progress made by the Organization in 1994, according to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. In his New Year's message to United Nations personnel, he said peace and development required not only far-seeing policies and adequate resources, but the services of dedicated professionals who were on the job day after day.

The Secretary-General expressed his admiration for United Nations peace-keepers, aid workers and staff members around the world. He stressed his determination to stand up for their needs and to spread the word of the indispensable work they were doing.

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The Secretary-General has said he is extremely pleased with the cease-fire agreement signed by the parties in Sarajevo on 31 December. He described the four-month agreement as an important first step towards a real peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and expressed hope that it would clear the way for the parties to return to the negotiating table in the near future.

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(more)

The Secretary-General congratulated Special Representative Yasushi Akashi, Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Rose, and the entire United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) team for successfully brokering the cease-fire between the parties. A United Nations spokesman today said that Mr. Boutros-Ghali and Mr. Akashi had been in touch with the members of the Contact Group -- France, Germany, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States -- with a view to building on the agreement.

The spokesman went on to say that the cease-fire seemed to be holding well, although the situation in Bihac was "fragile". However, he added that the Croatian Serbs had given clearance for a convoy to carry fuel to Bangladeshi peace-keepers in the enclave tomorrow.

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Two Canadian peace-keepers were seriously injured in a totally unprovoked attack in Croatia on Saturday, according to a United Nations spokesman. The Canadians were travelling in a vehicle through the town of Kolarina, in sector south, when they were fired on by a group of around 20 Croatian Serbs.

The spokesman said UNPROFOR had issued a very strong protest to the Croatian Serb leadership, calling for the arrest and court-martial of the soldiers responsible for the attack.

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The Security Council has five new non-permanent members this year: Botswana, Germany, Honduras, Indonesia and Italy. They were elected to two-year terms of office by the General Assembly last October, and replaced Brazil, Djibouti, New Zealand, Pakistan and Spain on 31 December.

The other non-permanent Council members are: Argentina, the Czech Republic, Nigeria, Oman and Rwanda. Their terms of office will end on 31 December 1995. China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States are permanent members of the Council.

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The Department of Public Information has published the forty-seventh volume of the Yearbook of the United Nations, covering the activities of the United Nations system in 1993. The Yearbook is the most comprehensive and authoritative publication on the work of the Organization, and is designed not just for use by diplomats, government officials and scholars, but also by writers, journalists, teachers and students.

The Yearbook consists of 54 chapters divided into six parts: political and security questions; regional questions; economic and social questions; legal questions; administrative and budgetary questions; and intergovernmental organizations related to the United Nations. It contains detailed information on meetings and activities of United Nations bodies, as well as most resolutions in their entirety.

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